

**PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES**  
**North Carolina State Board of CPA Examiners**  
**August 19, 2019**  
**1101 Oberlin Road**  
**Raleigh, NC 27605**

---

**MEMBERS ATTENDING:** Arthur M. Winstead, Jr., CPA, President; Michael S. Massey, CPA, Vice President; Gary R. Massey, CPA, Secretary-Treasurer (via telephone); Barton W. Baldwin, CPA; Bernita W. Demery, CPA; and Wanda B. Taylor, Esq.

**STAFF ATTENDING:** Robert N. Brooks, Executive Director; David R. Nance, CPA, Deputy Director; Frank Trainor, Esq., Staff Attorney; Lisa R. Hearne, Communications Officer; Julia Mayo, Professional Standards Specialist; Buck Winslow, Licensing Manager; and Noel L. Allen, Esq., Legal Counsel.

**GUESTS:** Sharon Bryson, CEO, NCACPA; Mark Soticheck, CPA, COO, NCACPA; Jennifer K. Van Zant, Esq.; and Sgt. J.A. Stokes, Raleigh Police Department.

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Winstead called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the July 22, 2019, meeting were approved as submitted.

**FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY ITEMS:** The July 2019 financial statements were accepted as submitted.

**LEGISLATIVE AND RULE-MAKING ITEMS:** Ms. Taylor and Mr. M. Massey moved to submit amended rule 21 NCAC 08F .0105 for hearing before the Rules Review Commission. Motion passed.

**STATE AND LOCAL ORGANIZATION ITEMS:** Messrs. Baldwin and M. Massey moved to record the evaluations of *Statement of Economic Interest* filed by Bernita W. Demery, CPA, and Barton W. Baldwin, CPA, in the Minutes (Appendix I) of this meeting as required by NCGS 138A-2(e). Motion passed.

**REPORT OF THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE:** Mr. M. Massey moved and the Board approved the following recommendations of the Committee:

Case Nos. C2019007-1 and C2019007-2 - Pauline K. Chan and Pauline Chan, CPA - Approve the signed Consent Order (Appendix II).

Case No.: I2019011 - Michael R. Holden and Michael R. Holden, PLLC – Approve the signed Consent Order (Appendix III).

Case No. C2019200 - George R. Brown - Approve the signed Consent Order (Appendix IV).

Case No. C2014280 - Paul Edward Lloyd- Approve a Notice of Hearing for October 24, 2019, at 10:00 a.m.

Case No. C2018181 - Dale Rife - Approve a Notice of Hearing for November 25, 2019, at 10:00 a.m.

Case No. C2019218 - Jun B. Chung - Approve a Notice of Hearing for December 16, 2019, at 10:00 a.m.

Case No. C2019130 – Close the case without prejudice with a Letter of Warning.

Case No. C2019142 - Close the case without prejudice

Case No. C2019148 – Close the case without prejudice.

Case No. C2019153 – Close the case without prejudice with a Letter of Warning.

Case No. C2019179 - Close the case without prejudice.

**REPORT OF THE PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION AND APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE:** Mr. G. Massey moved and the Board approved the following recommendations of the Committee:

**Transfer of Grades Applications** - The Committee recommended that the Board approve the following:

Rachel Renée Cox  
Sadie Rockefeller Duffee

Michael Ray Johnson  
Douglas John Schaffer

**Original Certificate Applications** - The Committee recommended that the Board approve the following:

Matthew Daniel Abrams  
Taylor-Elise Beauprez  
Joshua Scott Bollinger  
Connor Lee Brank  
Carter Reid Brookman  
Timothy Cleyburn Bullock  
Ryan Christopher Cadden  
James Jarrett Cervi  
Philip Marc Colvard  
Mitchell Overcash Cooper  
Rachel Renée Cox  
Nicholas James Cruise  
Hayley Sumner Crumley  
Lara Catherine Delfino

Paul Edward Demick, II  
Benjamin Walter Doyle  
Sadie Rockefeller Duffee  
Jeremy Chung-Shin Dussek  
Eli James Flynt  
Rebecca Durrett Geddes  
Stacey Lynn Grissom  
Michael James Hardy  
Andrew Ellis Harton  
Sam Reid Henrickson, II  
Ryan Seth Hoyle  
Michael Ray Johnson  
Kyle Charles Kwiatkowski  
Brian Matthew Ligon

Kevin Linwood Marsh  
Patrick Scott Maynard  
Madison Claire McCombs  
Timothy Andrew Nicolosi  
Hanna Carroll O'Leary  
Sandra Kay David Phillips  
Kayla Danielle Pollard  
Ian Michael Pratt

Elizabeth Margaret Reiher  
Julian David Rojas  
Eric Benjamin Sachs  
Douglas John Schaffer  
Brian Robert Shagena  
Kerry Michael Sledge  
Cameron Crawford Walton  
Alec Wiener

Staff reviewed and recommended approval of the original applications submitted by the individuals listed below. The applicants failed to disclose pertinent information with their Exam application but provided it with their certificate application. Staff recommended approval of the applications with a one-year probationary period. The Committee recommended that the Board approve staff recommendation:

Aaron Michael Bonertz  
Adam James Braxton  
William Blake Hawke

Austin Bradford Rice  
James Donald Turner

**Reciprocal Certificate Applications** - The Committee recommended that the Board approve the following:

Stephen Clark Allen, Jr.  
Jerry Dean Allison  
Ashwani Arora  
Waqqas Asghar  
Brooke Danielle Bedel  
Sean Michael Brewer  
Tracy Amaris Brown  
Lucia Caldari  
Eileen M. Callori  
Tracy Lynn Conroy  
Ned Peter Curtis  
Michael James Dillon  
Brent Russell Fryar  
Denise Maria Frye  
Julie Anne Gerlach  
Alexander Fredric Gershner  
Howard Jay Goldberg  
William Greenwood  
Jametra Danielle Harris  
Sean Tyler Kaufmann  
Vik Kinney  
Paul John Kozulis

ShirWan Lee Little  
Kristen Lambert Luk  
Justin Patrick Marcarelli  
Christopher Dean Mays  
Matthew Timothy McGrath  
Adam Hunter McTish  
Kelsey Elise Muth  
Thomas Owen Myers  
Stefan Elliot Ozer  
Winston Y. Park  
Jamie Avenir Potteiger  
Denise Judith Price  
Lauren Michelle Robinson  
Theresa Miller Rouse  
Chamese Glendene Ruddock  
Kevin Richard Ruff  
Pooja Sehgal  
Thomas J. Shaughnessy  
Lana Kaye Szczepanski  
Julie Huff Thomas  
Victoria Torino  
Travis William Whited

**Temporary Permits** - The Committee recommended that the Board approve the following temporary permits that were approved by the Executive Director:

Ziyang Ren, T11341  
Stephen Harrold Schiller, T11342  
Kristin D. Marshaleck, T11343  
Huey-Jyun Jhang, T11344  
Christopher James Campeggio, T11345  
Betty J. Crouch, T11346  
Daisy Hao, T11347  
Julie Marie Wiethorn, T11348  
Lori Dawn Warden, T11349  
Alan S. Hickey, T11350  
Derrick Christopher Scott, T11351  
Ryan Mark Misenheimer, T11352

Young-Woong Shim, T11353  
Elise Marie Leslie, T11354  
Daryle Ann Maddock, T11356  
Mark Anthony Rose, T11357  
Jefferson Wendell Wright, T11358  
Jacob H. Schemper, T11359  
James Lee Liechty, T11360  
Laura Katherine Hensler, T11361  
Marvin Howard Nyman, T11362  
Yaneka Wyndham-Wiggins, T11363  
William Harold Cochran, T11364

**Reinstatements** - The Committee recommended that the Board approve the following:

Robert Curtis Adams, #32241  
Aaron Joseph Baker, #34671  
Christina Marie Baker, #34023

Jeffrey Thomas Hendrickson, #28260  
Thomas Elvin Hinton, Sr., #23037

**Reissuance of New Certificate** - The Committee recommended that the Board approve the following applications for reissuance of new certificate:

Kristen Elizabeth Nickle, #33671  
Zachary Brooks Schoenholtz, #40519

**Reissuance of New Certificate and Consent Agreement** - The Committee recommended that the Board approve the following applications for reissuance of new certificate and consent agreement:

Cynthia Jefferson Glad, #25188  
Patrick Michael McAuley, #34663

**Firm Registrations** - The Committee recommended that the Board approve the following professional corporation and professional limited liability company that were approved by the Executive Director:

Richard A. Grimstad, CPA, P.C.  
Lovell-Smit & Associates, PLLC

**Letters of Warning** - Staff reviewed the random CPE audit submitted by Barbara Rapp Brown, #17984 which listed 2017 CPE taken between January 1 and June 30, 2018, without an approved extension. Staff recommended a letter of warning for a first offense pursuant to 21 NCAC 08G .0406(b)(1). The Committee recommended that the Board approve staff recommendation.

The Committee recommended that the Board approve the requests to rescind the Letters of Warning issued to the individuals listed below:

Anne Elizabeth Brown, #41791  
Andrew Thomas Castelloe, #37066  
John Preston Glynn, #15921  
Malorie Elizabeth Irwin, #40666

D. Lisa Joseph, #33419  
James Shawn McGrath, #39097  
Timothy Edward Mullis, #18432  
Nabil A. Sibay, #41584

**Examinations** –The Committee recommended that the Board approve the following staff-approved applicants to sit for the Uniform CPA Examination:

Bashir Ahmady  
Michael Allen  
Riane Allen  
Cathryn Anderson  
David Angel  
Benjamin Badgley  
Richard Baird  
Erika Baker  
Sahr Bangai  
Tristan Baylock  
Michael Beam  
Ryan Beckman  
Bradley Bennett  
Julie Bernard  
Megan Bobbitt  
Letitia Boger  
Emily Boggs  
James Brace  
Jeffery Braddy  
Dean Brindle  
Nolan Brown  
Randolph Brown  
Rebecca Brown Joshi  
Wendy Burnes  
Sherrie Byrd  
Michael Caffarello  
Holly Campbell  
James Campbell  
Gregory Carrington  
Hannah Chae  
Chuchu Chatman  
Tabitha Clement  
Erich Cloninger  
Robert Cochrane  
Marquetta Cooper

Phillip Cordeiro  
Austin Crabtree  
Kevin Cresimore  
Sheridan Crissman  
Leslie Cunnane  
Alison Cuteri  
Lauren Davis  
William Deleo  
Katherine Doyle  
Lillian DuBlina  
Stewart Dula  
Kathleen Eaton  
Dylan Edwards  
Margaret Everhart  
Benjamin Ferguson  
Christopher Fields  
James Fine  
Elizabeth Floyd  
Ryan Forbes  
Kelly Fort  
David Freeman  
Gabrielle Frost  
Jordan Fulbright  
Amanda Gadd  
Lorena Gan  
Ashleigh Gardner  
Taylor Garland  
Morgan Garriss  
Gregory Gerlach  
Brett Gibson  
Sascha Gibson  
Colin Gough  
Rachel Hamrick  
Ronnie Harper  
Cody Harrell

Matthew Holland  
Jared Hough  
Daniel Hudson  
Kaleb Iocco  
Henley Irby  
Shannon Jeffers  
Leslie Jefferson  
Mekeia Jenkins  
David Jennings  
Gregory Journigan  
John Kadechka  
Timothy Kearns  
Leland Keech  
Artur Khalikov  
Iryna Kharlamova  
Nicolas Kilmer  
Jonathan Kim  
Erin Kissling  
Ryan Kose  
Madeleine Kruener  
William Lassiter  
Matthew Lauder  
Richard Laurie  
Mark Leaver  
Alexander Lee  
Stephanie Lemons  
Mary Lennon  
Robert Little  
Berenice Lopez-Garcia  
Tony Lou  
LeeAnne Lower  
Catherine Macon  
Lauren Magnuson  
Jennifer Maybee  
Derek McCann  
Patrick McLaughlin  
Justin McMahon  
Ryan McMillin  
Marcos Melendez  
Victoria Mitchner  
Johnathan Modlin  
Jonathan Mohl  
Michelle Moody  
Katherine Morton  
Cynthia Mosley  
Jarell Moten

Tiaria Mulbah  
Alexandra Murphy  
Parker Nash  
Emanuel Nasui  
Diana Neaga  
Christopher Newman-Clifford  
Kerri Nile  
Chukwuma Nnebe-Agumadu  
Connor Noonan  
Dianna Norville  
Peyton Noschese  
Nkemjika Nwosu  
Corey Oxendine  
Bailey Pasin  
Michael Patch  
Greg Phillips  
Luis Pizarro  
Noah Polayes  
Celeste Pritchard  
Laura Purdy  
Melissa Ratcliff  
Caitlin Raube  
Lawrence Repko  
Christopher Rhodes  
Charles Rich  
Jack Rich  
Jenna Riglick  
Sara Robinson  
Jocelyn Rosario  
Eileen Rose  
Tyler Roten  
Brian Roundtree  
Michael Saccavino  
Benjamin Sawyer  
Justin Shanhan  
Amanda Shaughnessy  
Andrew Shelton  
Allison Shikorsky  
Deidra Simmons  
Haley Smith  
Mary Smith  
Eric Sommermann  
Jesse Spinks  
Philip Stokes  
Samuel Straw  
Patrick Sugg

Marybeth Sullivan  
Amy Sutherland  
Savannah Sutton  
Amy Szalaj  
Rachael Taggio  
Cheryl Taylor  
Evan Tello  
Andrea Thomson  
Irish Thurston  
Nashua Tillotson  
Laura Tosti  
Cassandra Townsend  
Joshua Tripp  
Jeremy Truhel  
Cameron Turner  
Jason Turner

Joshua VanWingerden  
Nataliya Volokh  
Alexis Walker  
Courtney Walker  
Troy Warren  
Hannah Weaver  
Mariah Wharton  
Andrew White  
Ryan Williams  
Anthony Windley  
Victoria Winstead  
Waylon Woodall  
Jacquelyn Yellin-Mungo  
Lucas Younts  
Lihua Zhao

The Committee recommended that the Board disapprove a hypothetical Exam issue where a candidate had requested an extension of time longer than 18 months to complete all four Exam sections.

**PUBLIC SESSION:**

**RESOLUTION:** President Winstead read a Resolution (Appendix V) thanking Jeffrey J. Truitt, Esq., for his service to the Board and the citizens of North Carolina.

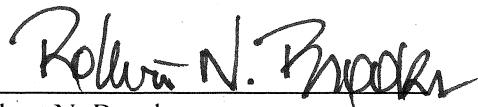
**OATH OF OFFICE:** Jennifer Van Zant, Esq., was sworn the Oath of Office by President Winstead.

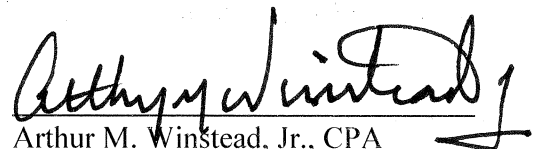
**EXECUTIVE STAFF AND LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT:** The monthly operational metrics and Executive Staff report were provided.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mr. Winstead and Ms. Demery moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:47 a.m. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted:

Attested to by:

  
Robert N. Brooks  
Executive Director

  
Arthur M. Winstead, Jr., CPA  
President



## STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

POST OFFICE BOX 27685

RALEIGH, NC 27611

PHONE: 919-814-3600

### Via Email

July 10, 2019

The Honorable Roy A. Cooper III  
Governor of North Carolina  
20301 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-0301

**Re: Evaluation of Statement of Economic Interest Filed by Ms. Bernita W. Demery, Prospective  
Appointee to the North Carolina State Board of Certified Public Accountant Examiners**

Dear Governor Cooper:

Our office has received **Ms. Bernita W. Demery's** 2019 Statement of Economic Interest as a prospective appointee to the **North Carolina State Board of Certified Public Accountant Examiners (the "Board")**. We have reviewed it for actual and potential conflicts of interest pursuant to Chapter 138A of the North Carolina General Statutes ("N.C.G.S."), also known as the State Government Ethics Act (the "Act").

Compliance with the Act and avoidance of conflicts of interest in the performance of public duties are the responsibilities of every covered person, regardless of this letter's contents. This letter, meanwhile, is not meant to impugn the integrity of the covered person in any way. This letter is required by N.C.G.S. § 138A-28(a) and is designed to educate the covered person as to potential issues that could merit particular attention. Advice on compliance with the Act is available to certain public servants and legislative employees under N.C.G.S. § 138A-13.

**We did not find an actual conflict of interest, but found the potential for a conflict of interest. The potential conflict identified does not prohibit service on this entity.**

The North Carolina State Board of Certified Public Accountant Examiners is responsible for the certification of persons engaged as public accountants in North Carolina. The Board has authority to administer certification examinations, issue, renew and revoke certifications, and otherwise regulate certified public accountants.

The Act establishes ethical standards for certain public servants, and prohibits public servants from: (1) using their positions for their financial benefit or for the benefit of their extended family or business, N.C.G.S. § 138A-31; and (2) participating in official actions from which they or certain associated persons might receive a reasonably foreseeable financial benefit, N.C.G.S. § 138A-36(a). The Act also requires public servants to take appropriate steps to remove themselves from proceedings in which their impartiality might reasonably be questioned due to a familial, personal, or financial relationship with a participant in those proceedings. N.C.G.S. § 138A-36(c).



The Honorable Roy A. Cooper III  
July 10, 2019  
Page 2 of 2

Ms. Demery would fill the role of a certified public accountant on the Board. She is retired, but currently licensed by the Board. Because she would serve on the licensing authority for members of her own profession, she has the potential for a conflict of interest. Therefore, Ms. Demery should exercise appropriate caution in the performance of her public duties should issues involving her license come before the Board for official action.

In addition to the conflicts standards noted above, the Act prohibits public servants from accepting gifts from (1) a lobbyist or lobbyist principal, (2) a person or entity that is seeking to do business with the public servant's agency, is regulated or controlled by that agency, or has financial interests that might be affected by their official actions, or (3) anyone in return for being influenced in the discharge of their official responsibilities. N.C.G.S. § 138A-32. Exceptions to the gifts restrictions are set out in N.C.G.S. § 138A-32(e).

When this letter cites an actual or potential conflict of interest under N.C.G.S. § 138A-24(e), the conflict must be recorded in the minutes of the applicable board and brought to the membership's attention by the board's chair as often as necessary to remind all members of the conflict and to help ensure compliance with the Act. N.C.G.S. § 138A-15(c).

Finally, the Act mandates that all public servants attend an ethics and lobbying education presentation. N.C.G.S. § 138A-14. Please review the attached document for additional information concerning this requirement.

Please contact our office if you have any questions concerning our evaluation or the ethical standards governing public servants under the Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Roerden".

Mary Roerden, SEI Unit  
State Ethics Commission

cc: Bernita W. Demery  
Attachment: Ethics Education Guide



## STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

POST OFFICE BOX 27685

RALEIGH, NC 27611

PHONE: 919-814-3600

### Via Email

July 10, 2019

The Honorable Roy A. Cooper III  
Governor of North Carolina  
20301 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-0301

**Re: Evaluation of Statement of Economic Interest Filed by Mr. Barton W. Baldwin, Prospective Appointee to the North Carolina State Board of Certified Public Accountant Examiners**

Dear Governor Cooper:

Our office has received **Mr. Barton W. Baldwin's** 2019 Statement of Economic Interest as a prospective appointee to the **North Carolina State Board of Certified Public Accountant Examiners (the "Board")**. We have reviewed it for actual and potential conflicts of interest pursuant to Chapter 138A of the North Carolina General Statutes ("N.C.G.S."), also known as the State Government Ethics Act (the "Act").

Compliance with the Act and avoidance of conflicts of interest in the performance of public duties are the responsibilities of every covered person, regardless of this letter's contents. This letter, meanwhile, is not meant to impugn the integrity of the covered person in any way. This letter is required by N.C.G.S. § 138A-28(a) and is designed to educate the covered person as to potential issues that could merit particular attention. Advice on compliance with the Act is available to certain public servants and legislative employees under N.C.G.S. § 138A-13.

**We did not find an actual conflict of interest, but found the potential for a conflict of interest. The potential conflict identified does not prohibit service on this entity.**

The North Carolina State Board of Certified Public Accountant Examiners is responsible for the certification of persons engaged as public accountants in North Carolina. The Board has authority to administer certification examinations, issue, renew and revoke certifications, and otherwise regulate certified public accountants.

The Act establishes ethical standards for certain public servants, and prohibits public servants from: (1) using their positions for their financial benefit or for the benefit of their extended family or business, N.C.G.S. § 138A-31; and (2) participating in official actions from which they or certain associated persons might receive a reasonably foreseeable financial benefit, N.C.G.S. § 138A-36(a). The Act also requires public servants to take appropriate steps to remove themselves from proceedings in which their impartiality might reasonably be questioned due to a familial, personal, or financial relationship with a participant in those proceedings. N.C.G.S. § 138A-36(c).

The Honorable Roy A. Cooper III  
July 10, 2019  
Page 2 of 2

Mr. Baldwin would fill the role of a certified public accountant on the Board. He is a managing partner for the certified public accounting firm Baldwin & Hodge, LLP. Because he would serve on the licensing authority for members of his own profession, he has the potential for a conflict of interest. Therefore, Mr. Baldwin should exercise appropriate caution in the performance of his public duties should issues involving the business of Baldwin & Hodge, LLP, his certification or the certifications of his colleagues come before the Board for official action.

In addition to the conflicts standards noted above, the Act prohibits public servants from accepting gifts from (1) a lobbyist or lobbyist principal, (2) a person or entity that is seeking to do business with the public servant's agency, is regulated or controlled by that agency, or has financial interests that might be affected by their official actions, or (3) anyone in return for being influenced in the discharge of their official responsibilities. N.C.G.S. § 138A-32. Exceptions to the gifts restrictions are set out in N.C.G.S. § 138A-32(e).

When this letter cites an actual or potential conflict of interest under N.C.G.S. § 138A-24(e), the conflict must be recorded in the minutes of the applicable board and brought to the membership's attention by the board's chair as often as necessary to remind all members of the conflict and to help ensure compliance with the Act. N.C.G.S. § 138A-15(c).

Finally, the Act mandates that all public servants attend an ethics and lobbying education presentation. N.C.G.S. § 138A-14. Please review the attached document for additional information concerning this requirement.

Please contact our office if you have any questions concerning our evaluation or the ethical standards governing public servants under the Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Roerden".

Mary Roerden, SEI Unit  
State Ethics Commission

cc: Barton W. Baldwin  
Attachment: Ethics Education Guide



## STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

POST OFFICE BOX 27685  
RALEIGH, NC 27611  
PHONE: 919-814-3600

### Via Email

July 10, 2019

The Honorable Roy A. Cooper III  
Governor of North Carolina  
20301 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-0301

**Re: Evaluation of Statement of Economic Interest Filed by Ms. Bernita W. Demery, Prospective Appointee to the North Carolina State Board of Certified Public Accountant Examiners**

Dear Governor Cooper:

Our office has received **Ms. Bernita W. Demery's** 2019 Statement of Economic Interest as a prospective appointee to the **North Carolina State Board of Certified Public Accountant Examiners (the "Board")**. We have reviewed it for actual and potential conflicts of interest pursuant to Chapter 138A of the North Carolina General Statutes ("N.C.G.S."), also known as the State Government Ethics Act (the "Act").

Compliance with the Act and avoidance of conflicts of interest in the performance of public duties are the responsibilities of every covered person, regardless of this letter's contents. This letter, meanwhile, is not meant to impugn the integrity of the covered person in any way. This letter is required by N.C.G.S. § 138A-28(a) and is designed to educate the covered person as to potential issues that could merit particular attention. Advice on compliance with the Act is available to certain public servants and legislative employees under N.C.G.S. § 138A-13.

**We did not find an actual conflict of interest, but found the potential for a conflict of interest. The potential conflict identified does not prohibit service on this entity.**

The North Carolina State Board of Certified Public Accountant Examiners is responsible for the certification of persons engaged as public accountants in North Carolina. The Board has authority to administer certification examinations, issue, renew and revoke certifications, and otherwise regulate certified public accountants.

The Act establishes ethical standards for certain public servants, and prohibits public servants from: (1) using their positions for their financial benefit or for the benefit of their extended family or business, N.C.G.S. § 138A-31; and (2) participating in official actions from which they or certain associated persons might receive a reasonably foreseeable financial benefit, N.C.G.S. § 138A-36(a). The Act also requires public servants to take appropriate steps to remove themselves from proceedings in which their impartiality might reasonably be questioned due to a familial, personal, or financial relationship with a participant in those proceedings. N.C.G.S. § 138A-36(c).

Ms. Demery would fill the role of a certified public accountant on the Board. She is retired, but currently licensed by the Board. Because she would serve on the licensing authority for members of her own profession, she has the potential for a conflict of interest. Therefore, Ms. Demery should exercise appropriate caution in the performance of her public duties should issues involving her license come before the Board for official action.

In addition to the conflicts standards noted above, the Act prohibits public servants from accepting gifts from (1) a lobbyist or lobbyist principal, (2) a person or entity that is seeking to do business with the public servant's agency, is regulated or controlled by that agency, or has financial interests that might be affected by their official actions, or (3) anyone in return for being influenced in the discharge of their official responsibilities. N.C.G.S. § 138A-32. Exceptions to the gifts restrictions are set out in N.C.G.S. § 138A-32(e).

When this letter cites an actual or potential conflict of interest under N.C.G.S. § 138A-24(e), the conflict must be recorded in the minutes of the applicable board and brought to the membership's attention by the board's chair as often as necessary to remind all members of the conflict and to help ensure compliance with the Act. N.C.G.S. § 138A-15(c).

Finally, the Act mandates that all public servants attend an ethics and lobbying education presentation. N.C.G.S. § 138A-14. Please review the attached document for additional information concerning this requirement.

Please contact our office if you have any questions concerning our evaluation or the ethical standards governing public servants under the Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Roerden".

Mary Roerden, SEI Unit  
State Ethics Commission

cc: Bernita W. Demery  
Attachment: Ethics Education Guide



## STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

POST OFFICE BOX 27685  
RALEIGH, NC 27611  
PHONE: 919-814-3600

### Via Email

July 10, 2019

The Honorable Roy A. Cooper III  
Governor of North Carolina  
20301 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-0301

**Re: Evaluation of Statement of Economic Interest Filed by Mr. Barton W. Baldwin, Prospective  
Appointee to the North Carolina State Board of Certified Public Accountant Examiners**

Dear Governor Cooper:

Our office has received **Mr. Barton W. Baldwin's** 2019 Statement of Economic Interest as a prospective appointee to the **North Carolina State Board of Certified Public Accountant Examiners (the "Board")**. We have reviewed it for actual and potential conflicts of interest pursuant to Chapter 138A of the North Carolina General Statutes ("N.C.G.S."), also known as the State Government Ethics Act (the "Act").

Compliance with the Act and avoidance of conflicts of interest in the performance of public duties are the responsibilities of every covered person, regardless of this letter's contents. This letter, meanwhile, is not meant to impugn the integrity of the covered person in any way. This letter is required by N.C.G.S. § 138A-28(a) and is designed to educate the covered person as to potential issues that could merit particular attention. Advice on compliance with the Act is available to certain public servants and legislative employees under N.C.G.S. § 138A-13.

**We did not find an actual conflict of interest, but found the potential for a conflict of interest. The potential conflict identified does not prohibit service on this entity.**

The North Carolina State Board of Certified Public Accountant Examiners is responsible for the certification of persons engaged as public accountants in North Carolina. The Board has authority to administer certification examinations, issue, renew and revoke certifications, and otherwise regulate certified public accountants.

The Act establishes ethical standards for certain public servants, and prohibits public servants from: (1) using their positions for their financial benefit or for the benefit of their extended family or business, N.C.G.S. § 138A-31; and (2) participating in official actions from which they or certain associated persons might receive a reasonably foreseeable financial benefit, N.C.G.S. § 138A-36(a). The Act also requires public servants to take appropriate steps to remove themselves from proceedings in which their impartiality might reasonably be questioned due to a familial, personal, or financial relationship with a participant in those proceedings. N.C.G.S. § 138A-36(c).

The Honorable Roy A. Cooper III  
July 10, 2019  
Page 2 of 2

Mr. Baldwin would fill the role of a certified public accountant on the Board. He is a managing partner for the certified public accounting firm Baldwin & Hodge, LLP. Because he would serve on the licensing authority for members of his own profession, he has the potential for a conflict of interest. Therefore, Mr. Baldwin should exercise appropriate caution in the performance of his public duties should issues involving the business of Baldwin & Hodge, LLP, his certification or the certifications of his colleagues come before the Board for official action.

In addition to the conflicts standards noted above, the Act prohibits public servants from accepting gifts from (1) a lobbyist or lobbyist principal, (2) a person or entity that is seeking to do business with the public servant's agency, is regulated or controlled by that agency, or has financial interests that might be affected by their official actions, or (3) anyone in return for being influenced in the discharge of their official responsibilities. N.C.G.S. § 138A-32. Exceptions to the gifts restrictions are set out in N.C.G.S. § 138A-32(e).

When this letter cites an actual or potential conflict of interest under N.C.G.S. § 138A-24(e), the conflict must be recorded in the minutes of the applicable board and brought to the membership's attention by the board's chair as often as necessary to remind all members of the conflict and to help ensure compliance with the Act. N.C.G.S. § 138A-15(c).

Finally, the Act mandates that all public servants attend an ethics and lobbying education presentation. N.C.G.S. § 138A-14. Please review the attached document for additional information concerning this requirement.

Please contact our office if you have any questions concerning our evaluation or the ethical standards governing public servants under the Act.

Sincerely,



Mary Roerden, SEI Unit  
State Ethics Commission

cc: Barton W. Baldwin  
Attachment: Ethics Education Guide

NORTH CAROLINA  
WAKE COUNTY

~~BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF~~  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT EXAMINERS  
CASE #s C2019007-1 and C2019007-2

IN THE MATTER OF:  
Pauline K. Chan, CPA, #30536  
Pauline Chan, CPA  
Respondents

CONSENT ORDER

THIS CAUSE, coming before the North Carolina State Board of CPA Examiners ("Board") at its offices at 1101 Oberlin Road, Raleigh, Wake County, North Carolina, with a quorum present. Pursuant to N. C. Gen. Stat. § 150B-41, the Board, the Respondent and the Respondent Firm stipulate to the following:

1. Pauline K. Chan, CPA (hereinafter "Respondent"), is the holder of North Carolina certificate number 30536 as a Certified Public Accountant.
2. Pauline Chan, CPA (hereinafter "Respondent Firm"), is a registered certified public accounting firm in North Carolina. Hereinafter, the Respondent and the Respondent Firm shall collectively be referred to as the "Respondents."
3. The Respondent Firm has received Fails on its two (2) most recent engagement peer reviews.
4. For each of those peer reviews, it was noted that the Respondent Firm had not utilized proper report language.
5. The Respondents have now ceased performing engagements that require a peer review.
6. The Respondents wish to resolve this matter by consent and agree that the Board staff and counsel may discuss this Consent Order with the Board *ex parte*, whether or not the Board accepts this Consent Order as written. The Respondents understand and agree that this Consent Order is subject to review and approval by the Board and is not effective until approved by the Board at a duly constituted Board Meeting.

BASED upon the foregoing, the Board makes the following Conclusions of Law:

1. The Respondents are subject to the provisions of Chapter 93 of the North Carolina General Statutes and Title 21, Chapter 08 of the North Carolina Administrative Code, including the Rules of Professional Ethics and Conduct promulgated and adopted therein by the Board.
2. The failure of the Respondent Firm to utilize proper report language is a violation of Board rules 21 NCAC 08N .0212 (Competence) and .0404 (Accounting and Review Services Standards).
3. Per N.C. Gen. Stat. § 93-12(9), and also by virtue of the Respondents' consent to this order, the Respondents are subject to the discipline set forth below.

MC-B06AP0000

AUG - 9 2019



BASED on the foregoing and in lieu of further proceedings, the Board and the Respondents agree to the following Order:

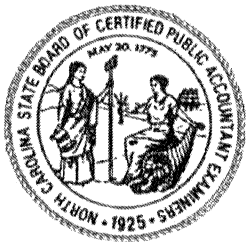
1. The Respondent Firm is censured.
2. The Respondent Firm shall pay a one thousand dollar (\$1,000) civil penalty to be remitted with this signed Consent Order.
3. The Respondents have agreed to no longer participate in or perform any engagements subject to peer review.
4. Should the Respondent Firm choose to perform any future services that would be subject to peer review, prior to acceptance of such engagement, each staff member participating in engagements subject to peer review must take a minimum of four (4) hours required group-study SSARS CPE annually until the firm receives a pass on a system review or a pass or pass with deficiencies on an engagement review. The Respondent Firm would also be subject to pre-issuance review pursuant to the Board's pre-issuance review guidelines.

CONSENTED TO THIS THE 6<sup>th</sup> (Day) BY OF August (Month), 2019 (Year).

Pauline Chan  
Individual authorized to sign on behalf of Respondent Firm  
Pauline Chan  
Respondent

APPROVED BY THE BOARD THIS THE 19 (Day) DAY OF AUGUST (Month), 2019 (Year).

NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF CERTIFIED  
PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT EXAMINERS



BY: Atty Whitely  
President

RECEIVED  
AUG -9 2019

NORTH CAROLINA  
WAKE COUNTY

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT EXAMINERS  
CASE #I2019011

IN THE MATTER OF:  
Michael R. Holden, CPA, #12498  
Michael R. Holden, PLLC  
Respondents

CONSENT ORDER

THIS CAUSE, coming before the North Carolina State Board of CPA Examiners ("Board") at its offices at 1101 Oberlin Road, Raleigh, Wake County, North Carolina, with a quorum present. Pursuant to N. C. Gen. Stat. § 150B-41, the Board, the Respondent and the Respondent Firm stipulate to the following:

1. Michael R. Holden, CPA (hereinafter "Respondent"), is the holder of North Carolina certificate number 12498 as a Certified Public Accountant.
2. Michael R. Holden, PLLC (hereinafter "Respondent Firm"), is a registered certified public accounting firm in North Carolina. Hereinafter, the Respondent and the Respondent Firm shall collectively be referred to as the "Respondents."
3. The Respondents issued multiple compilation reports and enrolled in the peer review program. However, they never completed the entire peer review process.
4. The Respondents have now ceased performing engagements that require a peer review.
5. The Respondents wish to resolve this matter by consent and agree that the Board staff and counsel may discuss this Consent Order with the Board *ex parte*, whether or not the Board accepts this Consent Order as written. The Respondents understand and agree that this Consent Order is subject to review and approval by the Board and is not effective until approved by the Board at a duly constituted Board Meeting.

BASED upon the foregoing, the Board makes the following Conclusions of Law:

1. The Respondents are subject to the provisions of Chapter 93 of the North Carolina General Statutes and Title 21, Chapter 08 of the North Carolina Administrative Code, including the Rules of Professional Ethics and Conduct promulgated and adopted therein by the Board.
2. The Respondents' failure to complete the peer review process constitutes a violation of 21 NCAC 08N .0203(b)(7).
3. Per N.C. Gen. Stat. § 93-12(9), and also by virtue of the Respondents' consent to this order, the Respondents are subject to the discipline set forth below.

NC BOARD OF

AUG -7 2019

CPA EXAMINERS

BASED on the foregoing and in lieu of further proceedings, the Board and the Respondents agree to the following Order:

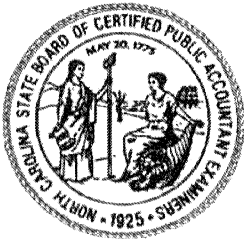
1. The Respondent is censured.
2. The Respondent's CPA certificate is subject to a one-year suspension. The suspension shall remain stayed as long as the Respondent does not engage in services subject to peer review and otherwise complies with the terms of this Consent Order.
3. The Respondent Firm shall pay a one thousand dollar (\$1,000) civil penalty to be remitted with this signed Consent Order.
4. The Respondents have agreed to no longer participate in or perform any engagements subject to peer review.

CONSENTED TO THIS THE 5 DAY OF August, 2019.  
(Day) (Month) (Year)

Michael R. Holden  
Individual authorized to sign on behalf of Respondent Firm  
Michael R. Holden  
Respondent

APPROVED BY THE BOARD THIS THE 19 DAY OF AUGUST, 2019.  
(Day) (Month) (Year)

NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF CERTIFIED  
PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT EXAMINERS



BY: Atty. General  
President

NC BOARD OF  
AUG - 7 2019  
CPA EXAMINERS

NORTH CAROLINA  
WAKE COUNTY

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT EXAMINERS  
CASE #C2019200

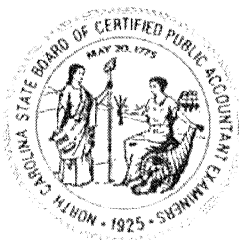
IN THE MATTER OF:  
George R. Brown, CPA, #27188  
Respondent

ORDER

THIS MATTER having come before the Board with a quorum present, and having been consented to by the Respondent, the Board finds and orders as follows:

1. George R. Brown (hereinafter "Mr. Brown") is the holder of a certificate as a Certified Public Accountant in North Carolina.
2. Mr. Brown failed to timely renew or cancel the annual firm registration for George R. Brown, CPA, P.C., in accordance with provisions as required by N. C. Gen. Stat. §93-12 (7b) and 21 NCAC 08J .0108 (b) and (g), and 08N .0213.
3. Pursuant to 21 NCAC 08J .0111(1), because Mr. Brown's infraction was for a period of more than one hundred twenty (120) days, the appropriate penalty is five hundred dollars (\$500).
4. Mr. Brown has paid the civil penalty and consents to the entry of this Order and has waived any right to a hearing.
5. The Board members present, representing a quorum of the Board, have unanimously decided to accept George R. Brown's payment as full resolution of the aforementioned rules violation.

This the 19 day of AUGUST, 2019.  
(Day) (Month) (Year)



NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF CERTIFIED  
PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT EXAMINERS

BY: Bethy Whithead  
President